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A TERMITE BARRIER

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(57) Claim

The termite barrier 3 comprises two sheets 5 of plastics materials heat sealed along the sides 7 and the ends 9 to form an envelope which encloses a layer 11 of absorbent material impregnated with insecticide effective against termites.

1. A termite barrier comprising an insecticide adapted to exterminate termites substantially sealed in an envelope impervious to the insecticide.

2. The termite barrier defined in claim 1, wherein the envelope comprises two sheets of plastics material heat or otherwise sealed together along the sides and the ends of the sheets.

3. The termite barrier defined in claim 1 or 2, further comprises a layer of absorbent material which is impregnated with the insecticide within the envelope.

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Complete Specification for the invention entitled:
A TERMITE BARRIER

The following statement is a full description of this invention
including the best method of performing it known to me:-

A TERMITE BARRIER

The present invention relates to a termite barrier for use in the building industry.

In many areas in Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland and Northern Territory, in situations where a new building is to be constructed on a concrete slab the local Building Regulations and Codes require that the building site is treated with an insecticide prior to laying the concrete slab to prevent termites entering the building from the ground through the concrete slab.

The standard practice is to spray the building site with a suitable insecticide and then to cover the ground with an impervious barrier, such as a sheet or

suitable plastics material, and then to lay the concrete slab on the plastics material. In this regard, it is relevant to note that the plastics material will not in itself prevent termites and its principal purpose is to prevent absorption of moisture and the insecticide into the building through the concrete floor.

Because of the majority of the area sprayed directly with the insecticide is covered subsequently by the building, the Building Regulations and Codes tend to allow the use of particularly hazardous insecticides, such as Heptachlor and Dieldrin, which are particularly effective against termites and otherwise are precluded from use in domestic situations.

There are a number of disadvantages associated with the standard practice described in the preceding paragraphs, and we set out below a brief summary of some of the disadvantages.

1. It is a generally dangerous practice to spray the ground with hazardous insecticides, such as Heptachlor and Dieldrin. For example, over time, the insecticides may leach into the area immediately surrounding the building and thereby pose a threat to animals and persons in that area. They may drain away from the building into the water supply and thereby pose a threat to the wider community.

2. The insecticides pose an immediate threat to the persons who spray the building site and to tradesmen such as plumbers and concreters who subsequently work on the building site. The problem associated with the insecticides can be particularly serious to plumbers since often the plumbers have to dig into the ground and thereby have direct contact with the insecticides.

3. The disadvantages in items 1. and 2. above are compounded in many instances since there is a tendency to over-use the insecticides to compensate for the concentration diminishing with time.

4. The insecticides must be sprayed by properly qualified pest controllers, and this requirement may lead to delays in construction due to difficulties co-ordinating the pest controllers, plumbers and concreters.

5. The disadvantage in item 4. above is compounded by the fact that it is not possible to spray in windy or wet conditions, since the insecticides will tend to be dispersed.

An object of the present invention is to alleviate the disadvantages described above.

According to the present invention there is provided a termite barrier comprising an insecticide adapted to exterminate termites substantially sealed in an envelope impervious to the insecticide.

It is preferred that the envelope comprises two sheets of plastics material heat or otherwise sealed together along the sides and the ends of the sheets. With such an arrangement, the termite barrier can conveniently be formed into rolls which can safely be stored and used as required.

Specifically, it can readily be appreciated that the termite barrier of the invention can conveniently and quickly be used as an underlay for a concrete floor by covering the ground with the termite barrier, overlapping and taping the joints as required, and then pouring concrete onto the termite barrier to form a concrete slab for a building.

It can also be readily appreciated that the termite barrier of the invention can conveniently be

used as a damp course for brick walls or footings.

It is preferred that the termite barrier further comprises a layer of absorbent material which is impregnated with the insecticide within the envelope.

The present invention is described further with reference to the accompanying drawings which is a partially cut-away perspective view of a preferred embodiment of a termite barrier formed in accordance with the present invention.

The termite barrier 3 shown in the drawing may be used as an underlay for concrete floors or as a damp course for brick walls or footings.

The termite barrier 3 comprises two sheets 5 of plastics materials heat sealed along the sides 7 and the ends 9 to form an envelope which encloses a layer 11 of absorbent material impregnated with insecticide effective against termites.

The termite barrier 3 may be of any suitable length and width and wound into a roll which can be conveniently stored and transported. In the case of the underlay application, suitable widths of the termite barrier are 1150mm, 2150mm, 3150mm and 4150mm. In the case of the damp course application, suitable widths of the termite barrier are 100mm, 150mm, 200mm, 250mm, 300mm and 400mm.

The plastics material is impervious to insecticide to ensure safe storage and handling and, after the termite barrier 3 has been used as an underlay and/or a damp course, to prevent absorption of insecticide and moisture into buildings. In the underlay application it is preferred that the top sheet 5 is formed from 200 micron thickness black polyethylene and the bottom sheet 5 is formed from 150 micron thickness black polyethylene. In the damp course application it is preferred that the top and bottom sheets 5 are formed from 200 micron thickness black

The absorbent material and the insecticide may be of any suitable type. In a preferred arrangement (for both the underlay and damp course applications) the absorbent material is a 250 micron thick layer of polypropylene fabric impregnated with 25 ml/m Heptachlor. In this regard, it can readily be appreciated that since the insecticide is sealed in the envelope formed by the two sheets 5 the insecticide may comprise particularly hazardous insecticides such as Heptachlor and Dieldrin.

In use, as an underlay for a concrete floor, lengths of the termite barrier 3 are arranged on the ground with adjacent lengths of termite barrier overlapped and taped to form a continuous barrier to termites and moisture over the whole of the area to be covered by the concrete floor. In use, as a damp course for a brick wall or footings, lengths of the termite barrier 3 are arranged to span the cavity between the outer and inner courses of bricks and to cover the courses to form a continuous barrier to termites and moisture over the whole of the area of the brick wall or footings.

It can readily be appreciated that any termites that penetrate the lower one of the sheets 5 of the termite barrier 3 will come into contact with the insecticide and will be exterminated. It can also readily be appreciated that even though there will subsequently be some leakage of insecticide through the punctures in the lower sheet 5 caused by the termites, such leakage will be limited to the immediate region of the punctures and thus should be minimal.

Many modifications may be made to the preferred embodiment described above without departing from the spirit and scope of the present invention.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A termite barrier comprising an insecticide adapted to exterminate termites substantially sealed in an envelope impervious to the insecticide.
2. The termite barrier defined in claim 1, wherein the envelope comprises two sheets of plastics material heat or otherwise sealed together along the sides and the ends of the sheets.
3. The termite barrier defined in claim 1 or 2, further comprises a layer of absorbent material which is impregnated with the insecticide within the envelope.
4. A termite barrier substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawing.

Dated this 10th day of September, 1990

EDWARD DOUGLAS MELVILLE TRIM
By Its Patent Attorneys

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